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To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/19/01 1:42pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Here's a snippet from an e-mail making the rounds today, 19 Dec 01 --
This is the sort of compliance you can expect from Microsoft:

"I understand that some people using Netscape's browsers had trouble
reading
my recent IETF trip report. Unfortunately, I had forgotten that
Microsoft
had changed their HTML conversion utility for Word2000 such that it
creates
great content for their IE browser but horrid content for Netscape
browsers.
Because I used Word2000 to create this report, I have been getting
emails
reporting great frustration trying to read/access my report.
Fortunately,
<name deleted> used a utility to strip out the Word2000-isms from an
older
version of my trip report. ..."

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The only innovative work we've ever seen from Microsoft
has addressed avoiding standards and undermining competitors.
The people impressed with Microsoft products are the turn-key
users and those who benefit directly from the largesse.
Everyone I know who works in information technology admires
Microsoft's business strategy - a monopoly in an area the
government doesn't understand. However, in these technical circles,
I never hear Microsoft praised for its technical innovations
or for its quality; quite the opposite.

(Technically, what has Microsoft *ever* innovated? A dancing
paper clip? Seriously review this question of innovation
with someone knowledgeable in the history of information technology -
every major Microsoft product is the result of purchase or
imitation.)

Those in the industry know that antitrust action against
Microsoft should have started in the late 1980s. The government
has clearly been slow to understand the information technology

sector of business. But finally the suit came, too late for Lotus and Caldera, but Microsoft's fundamental business practices had not changed. I can't believe that after winning the case, the U.S. Government is now going to capitulate.

Fred.

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